

**REMARKS**

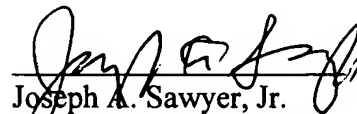
Attorney for the Applicants has amended the specification to correct a number of typographical errors. These amendments merely clarify the meaning of the application and are not believed to add new matter to the specification.

Claims 1-66 are pending in the present application. Claims 67-90 have been added and no new matter has been introduced.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted before receipt of a first action on the merits, and is believed to be submitted before the mailing date of such an action. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the preceding changes.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below to discuss any issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.  
Sawyer Law Group LLP  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 30,801  
(650) 493-4540

85. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the invocation mechanism further comprises at least one of the group consisting of: a UDF, a table function, a virtual table, a stored procedure, a trigger, a query statement, and a federated table, and an equivalent of any of the foregoing.

86. (New) The method of claim 83, further comprising the step of invoking the invocation mechanism from a database.

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87. (New) The method of claim 83, further comprising the step of converting data accessed by the invocation mechanism into a format understood by a database.

88. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the function customization specifications are received through a graphical user interface.

89. (New) The method of claim 83, wherein the customization specifications further comprise specification of a relational format for nonrelational data accessed by the customized function.

90. (New) The method of claim 83, further comprising the step of previewing nonrelational data in relational format at a user interface based on user customizations.

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